

Wonersh Parish Council

BLACKHEATH • SHAMLEY GREEN • WONERSH

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF WONERSH PARISH COUNCIL Held Thursday 10th January 2008, at 7.30pm at Wonersh Sports Pavilion

Present: Cllr R Bawden Chairman
Cllr M Harding Vice Chairman
Cllr M Band Borough Councillor
Cllr N Goodchild
Cllr L Healy
Cllr N Morris
Cllr Anne Powell-Evans

Also present were: Mr A Golden, Surrey Advertiser.
Mr D Beevers
A member of the public

Clerk: Mrs J Cadman

08/01 Apologies were received from Cllr C Howard, and Cllr A Povey, Surrey County Councillor.

08/02 Code of Conduct
No interests were declared.

08/03 Open Meeting
No items were raised.

08/04 Minutes of meeting held 8th November 2007
These were agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

08/05 Matters Arising
07/128: Gateways: Cllr Powell-Evans pointed out that money had been set aside in the last budget for the village gateways, and suggested that this should be used before the end of the financial year. It was suggested that the Wonersh gates were a mess and needed repairing or removal. The gates between Shamley Green and Wonersh should remain, as they served to remind drivers that they entering another village.
After discussion, it was **agreed** that SCC Highways should be asked one more time to repair the Wonersh gates. However, it was acknowledged that SCC Highways might simply remove the gates and reinstate the 30mph sign. It was also agreed that the money currently set aside should be retained as a reserve specifically for highway issues. This was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Band, **SECONDED** by Cllr Powell-Evans, all were in favour.

07/132: continuation of pavement from The Street in Wonersh to Gerald's Wood: Cllr Povey had advised that a further meeting of SCC's Traffic Task Group had not yet taken place, so this project had not yet gone forward. He did not have any information about when this meeting would take place.

07/167: Gerald's Wood: The sign was no longer on the gate.

07/183: Flooding and Erosion at Blackheath: The resolution of this issue was moving ahead slowly. The Lord of the Manor had now written to residents where the storm ditch was blocked in their driveways, pointing out that it was their responsibility to unblock the ditch. SCC had not yet moved on their part of the responsibility.

08/06 Finance- Approval of current list of receipts and payments

Members resolved that receipt vouchers nos and payment vouchers nos be APPROVED

Budget: Cllr Powell-Evans requested that stationery be removed from Clerk's expenses and shown under its own heading. This was agreed and the budget APPROVED.

08/07 Approval of Comments made by Ward Planning sub-committee on planning applications received.

The comments to Waverley Planning department regarding the following 26 planning applications considered since the last meeting were APPROVED unanimously.

WA/2007/2302 erection of a conservatory (revision of WA/2007/1296)

Phillips Hatch, Wonersh

WA/2007/2311 Erection of extension

11 Sweetwater Close, Shamley Green

WA/2007/2321 Erection of extensions and alterations

Spring House, The Drive. Wonersh

WA/2007/2345 Erection of extensions,

Crossways, The Drive, Wonersh.

WA/2007/2346 Erection of detached garage

Crossways, The Drive, Wonersh.

WA/2007/2350 Erection of extension following demolition of existing conservatory

Thimble Cottage, 2 Stonards Brow, Shamley Green

WA/2007/2372 Erection of replacement stable block following demolition of existing stables and cattery building

Land at Lynes Farm, Blackheath Lane, Wonersh

WA/2007/2373 Construction of a sand school

Land at Lynes Farm, Blackheath Lane, Wonersh

WA/2007/2350 Thimble Cottage, 2 Stonards Brow, Shamley Green

Examples of extensions to dwellings in surrounding area

WA/2007/2407 The Squash Court, Woodhill Lane, Shamley Green

WA/2007/2424 Church Woods, The Street, Wonersh

WA/2007/2432 53 New Road, Wonersh

WA/2007/2443 4 Philips Hatch, Wonersh

WA/2007/2466 Oakwood, Grantley Avenue, Wonersh

WA/2007/2474 Stroud Lodge, Willinghurst Estate, Shamley Green

WA/2007/2475 Stroud Lodge, Willinghurst Estate., Shamley Green

WA/2007/2484 Portledge, The Drive Wonersh Park

AG/2007/0004 Great Tangle Manor, Tangle Lane, Wonersh

WA/2007/2548 Bramble Cottage, Hullbrook Lane, Shamley Green

Erection of first floor extension

WA/2007/2551 Gaston Copse, Guildford Road, Cranleigh

Erection of extensions and alterations

WA/2007/2553 Thanescroft Cottage, Lordshill Common, Shamley Green

Erection of extensions and conversion of attached garage to habitable accommodation

WA/2007/2564 The Old Coach House, Wonersh Common Road, Wonersh

Erection of a detached garage

WA/2007/2599 Horwood, Hullbrook Lane, Shamley Green

Erection of a single storey extension

WA/2007/2659 Millbank, Guildford Road, Shamley Green

Erection of extensions and alterations

WA/2007/2210 Derryswood Farm, Cranleigh Road, Wonersh

Erection of extensions and alternations – amendment relating to reduction in extensions.

WA/2007/2702 Portledge, The Drive, Wonersh

Erection of extensions (alteration scheme to WA/2007/2484)

Cllr Band commented that, during this period, he had not been asked, in his role as Borough Councillor, to take any of these up at committee.

08/08 Budget 2008/09

It was **agreed** to reduce the amount budgeted for the Clerk's salary from £12,000 to £11,000, as

actual salary would be in the region of £10,940 after the annual review. The £1,000 removed from this heading would be retained as a fund towards replacement of office equipment.

Acceptance of the budget was PROPOSED by Cllr Band, SECONDED by Cllr Shareef, all in favour.

Acceptance of the precept request of **£32,400**, an increase of 8%, was PROPOSED by Cllr Harding, SECONDED by Cllr Healy, six councillors in favour, one abstention.

Cllr Bawden suggested that a working party should be set up in the new financial year to help members get a firm handle on where savings might be made, and where expenditure was likely, particularly as the council was getting closer to sorting out the reserves issue.

08/09 Wonersh Traffic Group

Cllr Bawden reminded the meeting that this group was born out of the parish plan exercise, which started in 2005. One of the big items for Wonersh village was traffic through the village. Mr Beevers had volunteered to put a group together to look at possible solutions.

Mr Beevers stated that the speed of traffic through the village was excessive, although he acknowledged that this was the same in other villages and he was aware that there had been 8 crashes on the Shamley Green side of Wonersh in the past 12 years. He believed that speed reduction should be a top priority for SCC, and that they should be installing a 20mph speed limit through the village, a 20mph limit on the Shalford side of the junior school, speed bumps and a speed camera. There should be similar restrictions on the road from Shamley Green, also on the road from Bramley, although he did not consider that a speed camera was necessary here. The traffic group also recommended a raided area around the Pepperpot, which would have the effect of making cars slow down.

Mr Beevers turned to the question of large lorries and reminded members that a number of houses in the street were very old, with minimal foundations and said that he had been told that the walls of the houses vibrated when lorries went past. He suggested that there should be a size and weight restriction on that road.

Cllr Goodchild commented that the only effective way of slowing traffic down was to erect some sort of barrier, but that this would require street lighting. It was pointed out that this could be a problem for emergency vehicles, and that rumble strips might be just as effective, although costly.

Cllr Shareef said that the natural speed of the road needed to be taken into account. He pointed out that, although this was a 'B' road, it had priority over the A281 where they joined. He believed that there would be a lot of argument about reducing the speed limit on a road which carried so much traffic.

Cllr Healy suggested that a public meeting be called to take this further, particularly as a whole section of the village who did not live on the Street, had not been involved in the campaign to date. She considered that the campaign needed the endorsement of the whole village. Cllr Harding agreed with the Traffic Group's views and believed that the Police Traffic officer should now be involved, and that a large number of local residents should be urged to write to Highways

Speaking from experience with a similar project in Blackheath, Cllr Morris urged patience and caution, although he understood the anxiety to get something done. The group had to be objective enough to understand that, whilst this was very important to them, there were other areas in the county with even more pressing problems. He believed that more research was needed, such as figures on the average speed in the Street, and pointed out that 8 accidents in

12 years would not be regarded as very significant.

Cllr Shareef referred to the speed watch programme in Shamley Green, which had effectively seen the number of people speeding through the village reduce over the past 2 years. Cllr Morris advised that when speed checks were carried out by the police, invariably a large percentage of those found speeding were residents of the village itself. In Blackheath, residents had been asked to sign a pledge not to speed through the village, which had been effective for a time. Any measures needed constant reinforcement.

Cllr Powell-Evans pointed out that, unlike Shamley Green and Blackheath, Womersley does not have the benefit of the support of a village association. She agreed that a public meeting would be a good idea, to gain a cohesive front.

The Chairman said that the issue to address was how to get action, and asked what the Parish Council could do to help. Mr Beevers believed that the Group needed to be able to impress on SCC that this was their responsibility. Cllr Harding suggested that he contact the local county councillor by e-mailing him at County Hall. He also suggested that the Group might consider putting together a community speed watch programme and advised that they would need hard figures on traffic, and the proportion of this which was heavy lorries. Cllr Band agreed that the more evidence that could be produced the better case the Group would have for action.

Further actions to be taken by Parish Council

- Write to county councillor and ask him to take this matter up
- Ask PC Dave Thomas to undertake a speed camera session, which would give clearer information on speeding and also catch a few offenders.
- Raise the issue at the Annual Meeting in April. It was hoped that the traffic group would have more hard facts by then, and this would be a good opportunity to take this matter further.

08/10a Joint Town and Parish Councils meeting

Cllr Harding tabled his report, circulated prior to the meeting, which included an update on Highways, the Hindhead tunnel project, which was progressing well, Health – the RSH wishes to achieve foundation status, which would give it more security than being involved in a Trust. Other items included community safety, closure of post offices – local news was good at present, planning, budget and future meeting objectives.

b Council's future involvement in LORD

At the last Council meeting in November, it was agreed that Cllr Morris would no longer represent the Parish Council on the Steering Committee of the LORD campaign. Since then, Cllr Shareef had attended a meeting of the campaign at Beare Green at which many Surrey Parish Councils were represented. The issues discussed were principally the problems caused by HGVs using inappropriate rural roads as short cuts, often because of using satnavs designed for cars. The group's intention is to obtain co-operation between satnav map providers and the authorities.

Although the group's work is of great value, it was not central to concerns within Womersley, and had not emerged as an action point from the village questionnaires. It was agreed that the Clerk would remain on the mailing list to receive and circulate updates on progress, but the Council would no longer be represented on the steering group although would consider attending general meetings from time to time.

c Blackheath Traffic Calming Working group

At November's meeting, the Council received a 'headlines' report of the traffic data collected in June/July 2007 and compared to that of June 2003. The full report of this phase of the project

had been circulated before the meeting. This report would also be presented to residents at the Blackheath Village Society AGM on 17th January. As this phase had now been completed, residents would need to decide whether they wished for the project to continue and, if so, what the next stage should be.

Councillors would be advised of the outcomes of the residents' decisions at the February Parish meeting.

d SCC's response to claim from resident for damage caused by pothole

Cllr Morris advised that SCC had accepted the claim it was a matter of regret that a formal complaint had to be made before something was done. It was recognised that SCC were under pressure, but they should meet the standards that they set themselves and the complaint had been made because they had not met their standards, rather than because they had not met the claim.

**e Shamley Green Projects
Traffic**

Cllr Shareef tabled a report on the Community Speed Watch scheme, and commented on its success to date.

The monitoring equipment used (speed gun, jackets, etc.) was provided for Shamley Green's exclusive use by Surrey Police. Many other parishes are sharing or have had to spend over £1000 to acquire their own kit. Recently, the police had also given Shamley Green two light-weight free-standing warning signs used during the speed watch, and two 30mph-zone warning signs to mount on posts at the entrance and exit to the village. However, in order to conduct the speed watches efficiently, they required the following additional equipment: two more light-weight free-standing warning signs and two 40mph-zone warning signs to mount on posts at the entrance and exit to 40mph-zone in Stroud Common. The cost of these would be £25 + VAT for the free standing warning signs and £90 + VAT for the post mounted warning signs. It was noted that there was a budget of £500 allocated for this project.

Bricklayers pond

The pipe had finally been laid and would help in draining roadside rain water into the pond. The costs were within the allocated budget.

The formal Commons Audit report was expected shortly from Sarah Henderson, Waverley Ranger. This would consider the longer-term maintenance of the pond.

Website

Cllr Morris and Cllr Shareef had met with the web designer to discuss improvements to the web site and would report further on this once the design and enhancements were agreed.

f Wonersh Commons Audit

An update was expected from Sarah Henderson, nothing had been heard recently.

08/11 Projects for the Scouts

Cllr Powell-Evans reported that they were looking for projects for the next couple of months. The boys in question were between 10 to 13 years old, and the Scouts carried their own insurance.

The following were suggested:

- Litter picking
- Traffic survey: need to consider risk, Cllr Powell-Evans will speak to Mr Beevers
- Work on Heath – asking Sarah Henderson

08/12 Guildford Development Framework

A number of drop-in sessions were taking place. Members would attend where possible. Cllr Harding was concerned that an improved infrastructure was not receiving enough attention, and this was a fundamental weakness.

08/13 Correspondence

- a) *Risk in Play*: Play England were to host an event on the 22nd January to explore the risk in play dilemma
- b) *Anne Milton*: had written regarding the South East Plan, enclosing a letter from Parmjit Dhanda MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Department of Communities and Local Government about the panel report that conducted an examination of the Draft South East Plan. She also advised that the Government is currently considering the report and will publish changes in the New Year, to be followed by a consultation period.
- c) *Accident Black Spot*: Bramley PC have copied Wonersh in on e-mail correspondence with the police regarding an area between Bramley and Wonersh which suffers constant accidents, and which is within Wonersh Parish
- d) *Footpath at base of Chinthurst Hill*: A resident had complained that a 6' close boarded fence had been erected along the footpath, blocking off the view of the hillside.

08/14 Councillors Business (For noting or including on a future agenda)

- a) *Office Opening Hours*: Cllr Healy suggested that an advert be inserted in the parish magazine about the new times. Cllr Harding confirmed that a notice had been given to the parish magazine, and would be in the next issue.
- b) *Parish Council report in Parish Magazine*: Cllr Bawden was concerned that residents took the report to be from approved minutes. As a Quality Council requirement was that the Council should issue a quarterly newsletter, he suggested that the Council consider the communication issue. Cllr Morris suggested creating a newsletter in a form that everyone could contribute to, and volunteered to co-ordinate this. It was **agreed** that the requirements of Quality Status should be investigated and steps taken in the direction of a quarterly report. It was also **agreed** to discontinue the report in the Parish Magazine. The Chairman thanked Cllr Harding for all his work in producing the précised report for the parish magazine. Cllr Harding undertook to publish the council's decision in the next edition of the parish magazine.
- c) *Parking in Shamley Green*: Cllr Shareef would like consideration given to how this could be improved.
- d) *Global Warming*: Cllr Shareef asked whether the Parish Council could head an initiative to reduce the parish's carbon footprint.

08/15 Dates of future meetings

Thursday 14th February, 7.30pm

Thursday 13th March, 7.30pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.15pm